



Railroad Technology

Post-Visit Lesson

Grades: 3rd - 5th grade

Class Time Needed: 45 minutes

Big Idea Students will understand how railroad technology is relevant in our lives today.

Maryland Curriculum Standards

Social Studies Framework

- Essential Question (3rd grade): How are people impacted by economic development in Maryland?
- Essential Question (5th grade): Do the benefits of post-Civil War industrialization outweigh the costs?

Materials Needed

- Internet access
- "What Am I" books by Ann M. Lewis video link <https://youtu.be/BKWaGmU4s30>
- "What Am I?" Riddle Sheet (with answers)
- Notebook paper and writing utensil for each student

Teacher Resources

ReadWriteThink lesson about writing riddles (with interactives and printouts for students)

<https://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/what-teaching-poetry-through?tab=3#resources>



Teacher Resources Continued

“What Am I”? books by Ann M. Lewis read aloud video

<https://youtu.be/BKWaGmU4s30>

Additional video read aloud if students need more examples of riddles that have clues and rhyme

<https://youtu.be/rwhzJ2qwU6l>

Lesson Procedure

Introduction:

Watch “What Am I?” video with riddle examples to see if students can guess the answers as the riddles get harder. Explain that during the lesson, students will be combining their knowledge from the B&O Railroad Museum Field Trip with creative brainstorming and writing.

Direct Instruction (Student Activity):

Read the “What Am I?” Technology Riddles (on next page) to students to see if the class can guess the correct piece of railroad technology from the field trip.

For the activity, students can work individually or in groups to create their own railroad technology riddle. Each riddle should have at least 3 clues. Bonus - try to make them rhyme!

Examples of railroad technology include: steam engine, boiler, pistons, automatic air brakes, diesel-electric locomotives, track, switches, whistle, turntable, lantern.

When completed, other students/groups can guess the answers to each other’s riddles.

Conclusion:

Discussion questions -

- How does railroad technology affect our every day lives?
- What are the differences between technology created before and after the American Civil War?
- What is the benefit of new technology? Are there any costs?



What Am I? Technology Riddles



I am underneath you when you travel

On a plane, train, car or bike

I am made of metal and rubber

I look like a donut

What am I?

Answer: A wheel



Two on a car

One on a train

Used in the dark or rain

Now is electric but once was a flame

What am I?

Answer: Headlight

